



ROLE OF EDUCATION IN DEVELOPING PEACE AND HARMONY

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ABSTRACT

Education has been always supposed to promote peace and harmony all over the world. The universal human values are always focused on by education in schools and colleges. Peace and Harmony are two distinct values of these universal human values that need to be developed among the human kind through education. Madam Today both these concepts are given less importance in education and its curriculum. Today's world is full of conflicts, insecurities, violence, unharmonious conduct based on political, racial, religious and ethnic factors which make a negative impact on the humanity. In the contemporary time, the major aim of education should be to help people to develop themselves as global citizens who can make continuous efforts for building one peaceful and harmonious world. There is a need of learning to live together with peace and harmony in today's world and education is the only tool that can approach to this aim. This article focuses on how education can help developing peace and harmony in this age of globalization.

KEY WORDS: Education, Peace, Harmony, Globalization.

INTRODUCTION:

"The Future Global Agenda for Children – Imperatives for the Twenty-First Century makes a commitment to ensure that education and learning processes help to form both human capital for economic growth and social capital for tolerance, respect for others and the right of each individual to participate with equality within family, community and economic life; ... and to challenge the culture of violence that threatens to destroy family and community life in so many countries."

- UNICEF 1999, E/ICEF/1999/10

The contemporary global world needs to follow the above imperative very strictly if it wants to save humanity along with developing peaceful and harmonious climate in the society. Today's human life is full of intolerance, racial superiority, violence and terrorism which are eroding the human values thoroughly. Today, every one of us needs this world to be a place of peace with equality and freedom of mind. The world is turning to be a global village and it is very necessary to establish these basic values of living that allow everybody to live freely with peace and harmony. However, our global world is facing distinct issues and serious problems that are destroying the human relations and the climate of peace and harmony. The world is divided into social, racial, caste, religious, class and ethnic groups which have become very deep-rooted. An urgent imperative for us today is to change the mindset of narrow nationalism to universalism as well as from cultural prejudice to tolerance and pluralism.

Peace and Harmony is the basic need of any nation. Only if a nation enjoys peace and harmony would it be able to prosper. The Constitution of our country includes laws to ensure political and social equality among the citizens in order to avoid clashes and maintain harmony among its citizens. Though the people of our country live peacefully with each other, often the peace is disturbed owing to some political, social, economic and religious factors. Price rise and unemployment also creates unrest among the people. People often come forward to protest against these issues due to which the normal functioning of the society is disrupted. Terrorism is another factor that hampers the peaceful living of the people. Several terrorist attacks have been carried out in the past and the life of people has been disturbed owing to these.

What is Peace and Harmony?

Peace and Harmony are the significant factors for any nation to be developed in an appropriate way. If there is peace and harmony among the people of the country, then only it can develop as a nation. The people and the government itself have to make enough endeavors to create harmonious and peaceful climate among the various societies, castes, creeds, races and religions.

What affect Peace and Harmony?

- Terrorism
- Religious differences
- Politics
- Unemployment
- Riots

Role of Education for Peace and Harmony:

Education is an everlasting process of human building. It includes knowledge, culture and wisdom. We all live in the world full of violence and disparity. People

have made various borders around them on the basis of religions and castes. Intolerance, fanaticism, disputes and discordance are posing constant threats to the mankind. Education is an important dimension for building up peace and harmony through tolerance, justice, intercultural understanding and civic responsibility. Education for peace and harmony is a remedial measure to protect children from falling into the web of violence prevalent in the society. It aims at the total development of the. It tries to inculcate higher human and social values in the mind of the child. In essence, it attempts to develop a set of behavioral skills necessary for peaceful living and peace-building from which the whole humanity will be benefited.

Ethical Development:

Education for peace seeks to nurture ethical development, inculcating the values, attitudes and skills required for living in harmony with oneself and with others. It embodies the joy of living and personality development with the qualities of love, hope and courage. It encompasses respect for human rights, justice, tolerance, cooperation, social responsibility and respect for cultural diversity, in addition to a firm commitment to democracy and non-violent conflict resolution.

Social Justice:

Social justice is an important aspect of education for peace. The concern for equality and social justice, which refers to practicing non-exploitation towards the have-nots, the poor and the underprivileged and creating a non-violent social system, is the hallmark of education for peace.

Human Rights:

Human rights are central to the concept of peace. Peace cannot prevail if the rights of individuals are violated. Basic to human rights are the values of non-discrimination and equality, which contribute to building a culture of peace in society.

Role of Schools in promoting Education for Peace and Harmony:

Through applying education for peace and harmony, it has been observed that school can have the following benefits:

- Develop a more humanistic management approach.
- Improve human relations between teacher-student, teacher-teacher, student-student, etc.
- Help develop good attitudes in the students and teachers, e.g. cooperation, mutual respect.
- Help healthy emotional development in students.
- Facilitate socialization through participation in interactive and cooperative learning activities.
- Improve students' discipline and moral behavior.
- Develop the creativity both in students and teachers.
- Improve the standard of teaching and learning.

Role of teachers in promoting Education for Peace and Harmony:

- Teachers should develop qualities such as compassion and service to others which can help reduce racial, religious or other prejudices.
- Teachers must be cognizant and wholly supportive of the basic nature and aims of peace and harmony education. The teacher must keep certain basic aims in mind including the achievement of a unified, peaceful society both globally and within the nation, where world citizenship is fostered and unity in diversity is recognized and practiced.
- Teachers must cope with prejudices, conflicts and violence in an increasingly diverse society by starting with themselves. First the teacher must develop his own emotional intelligence. People with high EQ know and manage their own emotional life well and understand and deal effectively with the feelings of others. They are skillful in relationships.

CONCLUSION:

The role of education for peace and harmony in the age of globalization is, thus, very necessary to be understood and implemented thoroughly. The parents, teachers, school management and on the whole the governments have to play a distinct role in developing the future generation by giving education for peace and harmony which later on help them to cope with the universal threats like intolerance, fanaticism and discordance.

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